Answered June 7th 1808

Bangor Theol. Sem. Ap. 13. 1808

To the members of the Princeton Theol. Sem.

Dear Brethren. Agreeably to a resolution recently adopted in this Institution we now address you. It is considered desirable and important to open a regular correspondence with several Seminaries with which we have not heretofore corresponded. It is presumed by this measure we shall become better acquainted and more interested in other Literary and Theological Institutions and with different and distant sections of our own land. Although we may be far removed in our respective situations we ought nevertheless to stir up each other to love and good works by way of remembrance. And furthermore as disciples of our common and blessed Lord and Master we are especially required to contribute for our mutual and spiritual knowledge and enjoyment. We hope therefore what has been said will be deemed a sufficient apology for making the present communication. In further pursuance of the resolution already referred to we are happy to make the proposal to commence and continue a familiar correspondence between this and your Theological Seminary.

Permit us merely to allude to the condition and prospect of our own State and in return we shall be glad to receive more information from that in which you reside. Maine sustains and important relation to the rest of New England and the British Provinces. This statement is true not only in a

geographical and political point of view but likewise in a moral and religious aspect to a considerable extent. The territory of Maine is nearly or quite as large as that of all the other New-England States. It contains not far from half a million of population while a large portion of its surface is yet uninhabited. It has great resources facilities and opportunities for agriculture, commerce and manufactures many of which however remain unimproved.— But without dwelling upon this view of Maine let us glance at this State as a field of moral and religious enterprize. At this point the mind of the observer cannot fail to perceive that Maine is to bear a prominent part with her sister Sister States in the work of the worlds conversion. This position is evident from the facts already stated and from others that might be adduced. The principal benevolent and charitable institutions and operations of the present day are established and sustained here with a good degree of interest and success. It may be said more particularly that the cause of temperance and the Sabbath schools are in commendable progress exerting around them as usual a benign and hallowed influence wherever they are formed. This State contains about 200 organized congregational churches. One hundred and thirty of them are supplied with settled pastors. Some other evangelical sects are as numerous as the one just mentioned.— In the single County of Penobscot there are 24 congregational churches two thirds of which are supplied with regular preaching. Notwithstanding all that is done there is throughout the State a great destitution of the means of grace and a constant demand for Ministers of the Gospel. "The harvest truly is plenteous but the laborers are few" It was doubtless under the influence of this consideration that a few humble and devoted Clergymen designed the opening of this school of the Prophets. The Seminary was founded some twenty years ago and occupies a central and commanding situation in the State It is now in successful operation having three talented and beloved

Professors and a prospect of a liberal and permanent endowment. The Institution has already furnished a great proportion of the present Ministers of its order in Maine besides sending many into some of the other States. It has the present year fifty Theological Students and nearly as many more connected with the Classical Institute. The associations generally existing in similar Institutions are formed and supported among us with apparent interest and benefit. Three of the last graduating class have received appointments from the American Board to foreign stations. Five of our present number have resolved, Providence permitting, to become foreign Missionaries. The surrounding District of country is an inviting field of labor for the students while pursuing their Theological course. Many of them are engaged in conducting Sabbath schools and village meetings which have been frequently attended with favorable and happy results. May it not in truth be said hitherto hath the Lord helped this Institution and favored this State. May the divine protection and blessing be vouchsafed and continued to the Seminaries and the communities to which we respectively belong and unto God be rendered evermore praise and glory for his infinite and unmerited goodness and mercy.

It is matter of congratulation and thanksgiving that there are indications of revivals of religion in several colleges of the Union. It is to be earnestly hoped and implored that many public seminaries may enjoy peculiar seasons of refreshing from the presence of the Lord, that many members may be converted from sin to holiness and be consecrated to the work of the Ministry. Thousands are needed in our own country-tens of thousands in other lands. Let us be entreated by a regard for the glory of God, the Kingdom of Christ and the welfare of immortal souls to pray for the conversion of all those who are connected with our colleges academies and schools in order that a good number may be trained and commissioned to preach the everlasting Gospel. It is interesting to hear that numerous and powerful revivals of religion are in progress in many parts of the United States. Every week brings us cheering and delightful intelligence of the advancement of the Redeemer's Kingdom. It does indeed seem that the time has come even the set time to favor the American Zion. This pleasing and important fact can not fail to produce pious emotion and vigorous effort among Christians. How can we

longer be unthankful and disobedient when there are such loud calls for gratitude and devotion to Christ. Religion has been generally low in this Sem. and City. It is hoped however that better times will soon be enjoyed. There appears to be more serious thinking on this subject which we trust will be followed by more religious feeling and action. Let us rise again to earnest persevering prayer and effort. All within us and around us declare our duty. Momentous consequences are depending upon its neglect or performance. Let us reflect and inquire Lord what will thou have me to do? Remember, Brethren, they that turn many to righteousness shall shine as the brightness of the firmament and as the stars for ever and ever. — In behalf of the Students

Pearson Follansbee ——
one of the corresponding committee

To
Mr. Thomas Wright
or to any member of Theol. Sem.
Princeton
N. Jersey